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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,208	03/29/2004	Peter Chou	250809-1090	1401

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EXAMINER

OSORIO, RICARDO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/812,208

Applicant(s)

CHOU ET AL

Examiner

RICARDO L. OSORIO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/22/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jamane (US 2006/0061556).

Regarding claim 1, Jamane teaches of a keyboard module comprising: a carrier device (Fig. 1, character, or ch., 1); a keyboard for entering text message (Fig. 1, ch. 51), the keyboard being mounted on the carrier device and including a plurality of keys (Fig. 1, chs. 55 and 57) ; and a navigator button mounted on the carrier device and located within the keys of the keyboard (Fig. 1, ch. 67).

Regarding claim 3, Jamane teaches of the navigator button has a cross-shaped configuration with four direction buttons (paragraph 39, it is clearly recognized that the four extremities are the directions of navigation) and an action button (Fig. 1, ch. 69), the direction buttons being located at four extremities of the navigator button (Fig. 1, ch. 67), respectively, and the action button being located at a center of the navigator button (Fig. 1, ch. 69).

Regarding claim 4, Jamane teaches of the keys of the keyboard have four keys each being located between two neighboring direction buttons (Fig. 1, ch. 57).

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Regarding claim 5, Jamane teaches of the carrier device being a printed circuit board (Fig. 3, ch. 83).

Regarding claim 6, Jamane teaches of the direction buttons being integrally connected together (Fig. 1, ch. 67).

Regarding claims 8 and 11, Jamane teaches a plurality of application buttons located within the keys of the keyboard (Fig. 1, ch. 71).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2 , 7, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamane in view of Miller (4,974,183).

Regarding claims 2 and 10, Jamane does not specifically teach that the direction buttons have a profile higher than that of the keys of the keyboard.

Miller teaches of keys at different heights (see Fig. 4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have keys with different heights, as taught by Miller, in the device of Jamane as an aid to distinguishing the different keys, or group of keys.

Regarding claim 7, Jamane does not teach of having the direction buttons separated from each other.

Miller has the direction buttons separated from each other (see Fig. 1, chs. 52, 54, 56, and 58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the direction keys separated, instead of integrally connected, because by

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having the buttons separated, the user can more accurately identify with his fingers the button intended to be used.

Regarding claim 13, Jamane does not precisely teach that the keyboard is a QWERTY keyboard. Miller teaches of a QWERTY keyboard (see Fig. 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the QWERTY keyboard, as taught by Miller, in the device of Jamane because the use of QWERTY keyboards is overwhelmingly known in the art of keyboards.

5. Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamane in view of applicant's admitted prior art (APA, hereafter).

Regarding claims 9 and 12, Jamane does not precisely teach of the plurality of application buttons being located outside and at a top of the keys of the keyboard.

APA teaches of the plurality of application buttons being located outside and at a top of the keys of the keyboard (see Figs. 1, 2A and 2B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the buttons being located outside and at a top of the keys of the keyboard, as taught by APA, in the device of Jamane because, by being on top of the rest of the keyboard keys, they can more easily be identified and avoid inadvertent actuations.

6. Claims 14-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamane in view of Miller (4,974,183).

Regarding claim 14, further, Jamane teaches of a handheld electronic device comprising a housing (Fig. 1, ch. 1); a display located at an upper portion of the housing (Fig. 1, ch.33) and a

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keyboard located at a lower portion of the housing (Fig. 1, ch. 51); and a navigator button located within the keyboard (Fig. 1, ch. 67).

However, Jamane does not precisely teach that the keyboard is a QWERTY keyboard.

Miller teaches of a QWERTY keyboard (see Fig. 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the QWERTY keyboard, as taught by Miller, in the device of Jamane because the use of QWERTY keyboards is overwhelmingly known in the art of keyboards.

As to claim 15, see claim 3 above.

As to claim 16, further, see claim 8 above.

As to claims 17 and 20, see claim 6 above.

As to claim 19, further, Jamane teaches the application buttons located between the keyboard and the display (see Fig. 1, ch. 71).

As to claim 18 and 21, Jamane does not teach of having the direction buttons separated from each other.

Miller has the direction buttons separated from each other (see Fig. 1, chs. 52, 54, 56, and 58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the direction keys separated, instead of integrally connected, because by having the buttons separated, the user can more accurately identify with his fingers the button intended to be used.

As to claim 22, further, see claims 2 and 10.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ricardo L. Osorio whose telephone number is 571-272-7676. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala whose telephone number is 571-272-7681.

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

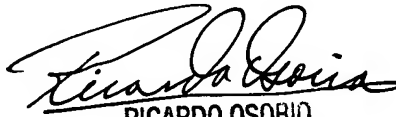
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or faxed to: 571-273-8300 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window at the Randolph Building, 401, Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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RICARDO OSORIO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Technology Division: 2629

RLO
November 24, 2006